

IN THE TITLE

Please replace the present title with the following new title:

**-- METHODS FOR STIMULATING STAT3
TRANSCRIPTION FACTOR WITH IL-TIF/IL-21 --.**

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, lines 2-5, replace by:

This application is a continuation in part of Serial No. 09/419,568, filed October 18, 1999, now U.S. Patent No. 6,331,613, which is a continuation in part of Serial No. 09/354,243, filed on July 16, 1999, now U.S. Patent No. 6,359,117, which in turn a continuation in part of Serial No. 09/178,973, filed October 26, 1998, now U.S. Patent No. 6,274,710. All of these applications are incorporated by reference in their entirety.

Page 16, lines 15-19:

Spleen cells from 10-12 week old ~~Balb/e~~ BALB/c mice were cultured for 24 hours in control medium or the control medium supplemented with 20 μ g/ml of LPS (which activates B lymphocytes and macrophages), or ConA (which activates T cells), or ConA plus 1% of a blocking antiserum against murine IL-9, with β actin being used as a control. Purification of RNA, RT-PCR analysis were carried out as described supra.